Went to Church

Dies Report On 3 Ickes Japs Denied

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By Mary Spargo
Post Staff Writer

A spokesman for the Interior Department said yesterday that three Japanese-American employes of Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes, charged by the Dies Committee Sunday with going to a meeting of the Japanese-American Citizens League at 1324 Fourteenth Street Northwest on May 22, were attending a social at Calvary Baptist Church, Eighth and H Streets Northwest.

This statement was confirmed by the Rev. Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the church, who told the Post the "fellowship gathering" was suggested by a young Japanese-American Baptist, now serving in the United States Army.

Arrangements for the little church social, in connection with which the Dies Committee referred to the "deadly methods of the Black Dragon Patriotic Society," were made through the Home Mission Board of Calvary Baptist Church.

In widely published stories, the Dies Committee had charged that the meeting, erroneously placed over the welding shop on Fourteenth Street, was disorderly.

Investigators were quoted as saying:

"The meeting ended in a hell of a row. We don't know just why."

Mildly surprised, Dr. Cranford said the Dies description was "rather odd" for a church gathering, and added that he knew of "no row" which had occurred in his church that evening.

Dr. Cranford pointed out that several other meetings were in progress in the church at the same time in adjacent and nearby rooms and that there had been no report of any row.

War Relocation Authority spokesmen, queried on the Dies charges, said that Ickes employes, like others released from their camps, had been carefully investigated.

"The records of all Japanese-Americans released have been checked against the records of the FBI, the Army and Navy intelligence services," WRA spokesmen said.

Representative Dies (Democrat) of Texas, committee chairman, who has been out of Washington, could not be reached for comment. Acting Chairman Starnes (Democrat) of Alabama is also out of town, as is Chief Investigator Robert E. Stripling, usual committee spokesman.